

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 03479 041025Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 /076 W  
-----115763 050229Z /62

R 040720Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9962  
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA  
AMCONSUL MADRAS  
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IN  
SUBJECT: TWO CONGRESS PARTIES JOIN TO STAKE CLAIM TO  
FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN MAHARASHTRA

REF: NEW DELHI 3459

1. THE ON-AGAIN, OFF-AGAIN EFFORTS OF THE TWO CONGRESS PARTIES TO JOIN TOGETHER TO FORM A COALITION GOVERNMENT IN MAHARASHTRA WERE ON AGAIN BY THE EVENING OF MARCH 3. FOLLOWING  
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THE BREAKDOWN OF THE CONGRESS (R)/CONGRESS (I) "UNDERSTANDING" IN THE MORNING BECAUSE OF MRS. GANDHI'S "UNACCEPTABLE" CONDITIONS (REFTEL), MEDIATORS SET TO WORK TO RECONCILE THE TWO SIDES AND APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED BY THE END OF THE DAY. ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 3, OUTGOING CHIEF MINISTER VASANTDADA PATIL AND N.K. TIRPUDE, LEADER OF THE CONGRESS (I) LEGISLATIVE GROUP, JOINTLY CALLED ON MAHARASHTRA GOVERNOR SADIQ ALI

TO STAKE THEIR CLAIM TO FORMING A COALITION GOVERNMENT COMPRISING THE TWO CONGRESSES, SOME SMALL PARTIES AND INDEPENDENTS. THEY CLAIMED TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF 150 OF THE 288 MEMBERS OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY. THE AGREEMENT BECAME POSSIBLE AFTER MRS. GANDHI AGREED TO BACK DOWN ON THE TWO CONDITIONS TO WHICH THE CONGRESS (R) HAD OBJECTED, NAMELY THAT SHE BE RECOGNIZED AS "THE LEADER OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS" AND THAT SHE BE ALLOWED TO ACT AS THE FINAL ARBITER OF DISPUTES AND POLICY-MAKING IN A COALITION CONGRESS MINISTRY IN THE STATE. THE DETAILS OF THE NEW UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO CONGRESSES HAVE NOT BEEN REVEALED, AND MRS. GANDHI'S ROLE IN A COALITION GOVERNMENT IS UNCLEAR. THERE IS SOME SPECULATION THAT SHE WOULD BIDE HER TIME AND WITHDRAW HER CONGRESS (I) SUPPORT TO THE MINISTRY AT AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT, THUS FORCING NEW ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN THE STATE, WHICH SHE PRESUMABLY WOULD HOPE TO WIN.

2. THE GOVERNOR OF MAHARASHTRA HAS NOT YET TAKEN A DECISION ON THE JOINT CONGRESS BID TO FORM A GOVERNMENT. WE PRESUME THAT BEFORE DOING SO, HE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH GOI LEADERS IN NEW DELHI. THE JANATA CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS TO FORM ITS OWN MINISTRY WITH THE HELP OF ALLIES AND INDEPENDENTS. GIVEN THE RAPIDLY CHANGING ALIGNMENTS OF THE PAST FEW DAYS, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT HOW THE MINISTRY-MAKING PROCESS IN MAHARASHTRA WILL FINALLY SORT ITSELF OUT. ONE VETERAN JOURNALIST PERHAPS SUMMED IT UP BEST BY SHRUGGING HIS SHOULDERS AND SAY-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ING THAT "ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN".  
GOHEEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COALITION GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978NEWDE03479  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780099-1115  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 NEW DELHI 3459  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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